



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2009

Push It Up!®

By Lt. Col. Rob "Waldo" Waldman

I'll never forget the first time I flew the F-16. The rush of adrenaline was amazing. The tower controller cleared me for take-off and from the back seat my instructor pilot, Captain "Deke" Slaton, called out over the intercom, "Push it up, Waldo!" "Yes, Sir!" I replied.

I nervously pushed up that throttle to full power and felt a kick in the seat unlike anything I've experienced in my life. 30,000 pounds of pure thrust. The power was unreal as I became airborne and in seconds accelerated to 350 knots.

I won't forget how hard I worked to make it to the cockpit that day. But it paled in comparison to how hard I would work to stay there. I had to push myself beyond my limits to earn my wings and become mission ready in the F-16.

I've embraced the phrase "Push it up!" in my personal and professional life and use it as a call to action to my clients, fellow wingmen, and friends. I want you to use it as well because it symbolizes what it takes to win. It stands for maximum effort. It's the thrust which drives you forward. It's what gives you wings to fly.

Push it up means you: put forth maximum effort—discipline yourself to take (the correct) action every day—commit yourself to your goal—stay focused until the mission is complete—face adversity with courage. It's about personal leadership, and you're the pilot in command.

Push it up also means you're a trusted partner in life—a wingman. Someone others can count on to get the job done. You have a disciplined, determined and passionate approach towards living every single day and you don't need to wear a flight suit of fly an F-16 to develop it. It originates in your heart, is inspired through your attitude, and is executed through your action.

Let me share something with you. Success isn't necessarily about motivation or even attitude. It's about action. Action that leads to performance that leads to results. The world rewards results, not attitude...and while your attitude is a tremendous asset in your life and will likely inspire you to act, it's not going to directly give you results.

Some say attitude determines altitude. I totally disagree. Here's a better formula: Attitude + Action + Ability determines Altitude.

What drives you to get out of bed every day ready to push it up and take action? Are you willing to work for it? Hard work is the impetus to action. It's the sun to the blooming flower and the sweat to the athlete. There is no substitute when it comes to success.

Winners in business and life possess a positive attitude that is seasoned with discipline, passion, and commitment. But at the end of the day, they take action to make it happen. Winners sharpen their sword and do the work to perfect their craft. Most importantly, they resist the temptation to ease up—to pull back the throttle—despite the missiles of life that are constantly being launched.

Push it up isn't easy. But it separates the mediocre from the "Mach-1." Are you pushing it up or pulling it back in life? How hard are you willing to work? The difference will determine whether or not you take off and reach new heights.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Waldo holds an MBA with a focus on Organizational Behavior and is a professional keynote speaker, leadership consultant and entrepreneur. Visit <http://www.yourwingman.com> for more on Waldo.

Proposed Bylaw Changes Due

The deadline for submitting proposed amendments to the *WFCA Articles of Association and Bylaws* is May 15, 2009.

Please submit proposals to the WFCA at P. O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507, fax 360.664.0415 or email wfca@wfca.wa.gov.

If you would like a copy of the current bylaws for review, please visit www.wfca.wa.gov or call the WFCA office at 800.491.9322.

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A Message from the President *by Bill Gates*



I guess I can now say happy Spring everyone but somehow it doesn't seem like Spring yet.

It was below freezing last night here in Federal Way. It was nice last month to get away on vacation to where the temperature was twice as high as it is here. I took a book with me and I want to recommend that you read *Lessons From the Line* if you haven't already. It talks about leadership principles told through stories and experiences of a veteran firefighter and chief officer. The message is that every leader should be a firefighter for a day. I had a hard time putting the book down except when it got too hot in the sun and I had to go jump in the pool.

Thanks to everyone who attended Legislative Day on March 9. Attendance was down a little from last year but I think the bad weather played a part in that. Thanks to Mike Brown and the Chiefs' Association for organizing this year's function. Those of you who were not there missed a good talk by Governor Gregoire.

Next year's Legislative Day will be earlier because of the short session. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 20, 2010. This is a perfect date in a short session because it is before any committee cutoff dates have passed.

...please contact any of the Board members or staff with any questions or comments.

Regarding the difficult and challenging economic times we find ourselves in, I received a note from our Region 9 Board Representative, Mick McKinley (Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue) a few days ago. He said the Kitsap County Assessor had predicted a drop in assessed valuation of 10-12% in 2010 and 2011. The information showed the resulting drop in revenues for a number of fire districts and that the bottom line could mean lay-

offs. So far we have not heard this message in King County but we will keep a close watch on it. This will be a topic of discussion at our April WFCA Board meeting and I would suggest that all of our districts and county associations start to talk with their county assessors about their assessed value predictions for the next couple of years.

I must use a few lines here to again congratulate and recognize Chief Al Church, South King Fire & Rescue, for being selected as the 2009 Public Employee of the Year by the Municipal League of King County. He received the award March 25 with about 350 people in attendance at the award ceremony in Seattle. This is a wonderful recognition for Al and the fire service.

I would like to extend an invitation to WFCA members to attend the April 25 Board meeting in Yakima and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Chelan seminar on Saturday, May 30. In the meantime, please contact any of the Board members or staff with any questions or comments. Happy Spring.

Remembering Bubba Larson

James R. "Bubba" Larson, 65, a lifelong resident of Vancouver, Washington died on Sunday, March 15 after a two-year battle with lung cancer.

Bubba served as a Fire Commissioner at Clark County Fire District 6 for 26 years.

During his tenure, he spearheaded such programs as the District's Advanced Life Support Paramedic program. In 1981, Fire District 6 was the first district in Clark County with full-time firefighter-paramedics.

He was very active in the Washington Fire Commissioners Association and served as its President in 1981. For many years, he chaired a committee for the WFCA which administered the Association's health insurance program for its member fire districts.

The committee collectively saved Washington fire districts millions in insurance premiums through negotiating health care agreements with providers and using reserves to lessen premiums.

In 1999 Bubba led the way for the WFCA health care program to become self-funded. The State Risk Manager considers the Larson-led self-funded program as one of the strongest financially in the state.

Bubba also served on numerous WFCA committees and was an original member and first chairman of the Governor-appointed Fire Protection Policy Board. Upon his retirement from service as a Commissioner, in

See Bubba on Page Three

ON THE WEB

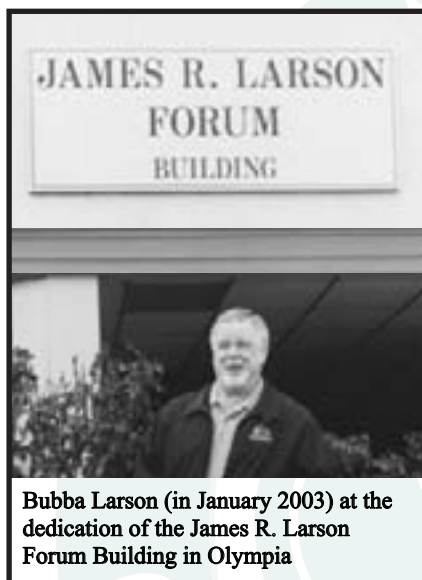
Over the past several months the WFCA has gathered input from members regarding the future direction of the Management Excellence Awards and it appears the majority of respondents would like to see some changes. The WFCA Board will discuss survey results at an upcoming meeting. To view the summary and raw data responses please log onto www.wfca.wa.gov and click on the News & Press Releases tab.



Bubba From Page Two

January 2003 the WFCB honored Bubba by naming their headquarters building in Olympia after him.

Bubba was widely known in Southwest Washington and Portland for his direction of the annual 4th of July event and fireworks show at Ft. Vancouver. This annual event was one of the favorite things in Bubba's life, which drew upwards of 80,000 people to the Fort grounds and on the river to watch the famous show. At one time the fireworks show was billed as the "largest west of the Mississippi."



Bubba Larson (in January 2003) at the dedication of the James R. Larson Forum Building in Olympia

Bubba was the owner of Dick Larson Florist in downtown Vancouver for many years. He started an ice-cream store inside his florist business called Bubba Two-Scoops, which was later moved to Hazel Dell.

Bubba touched hundreds of lives during his many community activities in Southwest Washington and around the state. Those he met typically left with a smile, for he was well known for his easy way with all people and his lively sense of humor.

Bubba will be missed by all who knew him, and all are in some way better for having known him. Rest in peace Bubba.

Special thanks to Clark 6 for supplying much of the above information about Bubba Larson.

Spouse & Orphan's Fund: Are YOU a Member?

The Spouse and Orphan's Fund is a private death benefit fund for firefighters and those directly associated with your fire department (secretaries, commissioners, mechanics, etc.).

The purpose of the fund is "firefighters helping firefighters". Both career and volunteer firefighters are invited to be members of the fund which pays a benefit to the spouse, child, parent, estate, or registered Washington State domestic partner of the member upon their death. The benefit is \$1 for each member of the fund at the time of notification of the member's death with a maximum benefit of \$1,750. The fund was started in the 1930s as the Widows and Orphans fund and changed in 2000 to the current name.

Membership in the fund is open to all firefighters and those directly associated with your department who have not reached their 45th birthday and are in good health. The initial enrollment cost is \$37 which covers the period from the date of enrollment until June 20. Each following year the annual assessment is \$32. That is \$32 for the YEAR, **NOT** per month. If you or your department enrolls five new members they can enroll a sixth member at no charge for the first year. Contact the treasurer for more information.

The fund pays approximately 40 death benefits each year. The benefit check is sent upon notification of death (we send the money and take care of the paperwork later). This money is welcomed by the beneficiary as cash is needed before insurance policies get around to making their payment.

You must be a member of the fund to receive the benefits. Enroll now. For more information about the fund and enrollment forms please contact the treasurer, Ed Johnson, at WASO-FUND@aol.com or at 253.445.9624.

Ads

FOR SALE by King 40: 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan SE, 52,740 mi, AT, AC. Sealed bids (marked Bid-Surplus Vehicle) received til 4 pm, 4/30. Min bid \$4,500. Submit bids to dist @ 18002 108th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98055. For info contact Paul Witt, 206.999.4002, ask-paul@comcast.net.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by N Whatcom Fire & Rescue (Dist 21): Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief. Full-time, FLSA non-exempt position serving as an executive-level asst to the Chief within the fire district. In addition to providing administrative support to the Fire Chief, the position is responsible for supporting the activities of the Board of Fire Commissioners, providing admin support to other chief officers and other duties and responsibilities associated with the position.

Requirements: Candidates must have a high school diploma or GED and a min of 3 yrs of admin expert w/ progressively increasing duties and responsibilities. In addition, candidates must be computer literate w/strong written and verbal communication skills, advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook, be self-motivated, detail oriented and able to maintain confidentiality. Previous fire service, publication design, data management and webpage management experience will be given preference, but are not required.

Salary: Starting Salary is \$2860-3466 per month depending on experience with excellent benefits provided.

Start Date: Anticipated start date for this position is June 1 or June 15 depending on experience.

Application Process: Interested applicants should complete an employment application and submit with a cover letter and resume to: North Whatcom Fire and Rescue, Attn: Human Resources, 4581 Birch Bay Lynden Rd, Blaine, WA 98230. Applications are available from the NWFR website at www.nwfrs.net or by calling 360.318.9933. Applicants whose experience and qualifications meet the requirements for the position will be invited to participate in an interview and assessment center tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Applications will be accepted until 4:00 pm, **April 30, 2009.**



**WASHINGTON
FIRE COMMISSIONERS
ASSOCIATION**

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OLYMPIA WA 98507

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WFCA@WFCA.WA.GOV
WWW.WFCA.WA.GOV

LOCATION

605 11TH AVE. S.E.
SUITE 205
OLYMPIA WA 98501

OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM - 4:30PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF
THE WFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP.

Washington Fire Commissioners Association

2009 SATURDAY SEMINAR SERIES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: WHAT NEXT?

and

MRSC: WHO WE ARE & HOW WE CAN ASSIST YOUR FIRE DISTRICT

Offered May 30 (Campbell's Resort Chelan), 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

The morning session will feature a continuation of the successful 2008 Legislative Workshop with an emphasis on small group breakouts to review legislative priorities and define in greater detail issues of importance to the WFCOA membership. WFCOA lobbyists will also review the 2009 legislative session.

The afternoon session will highlight the many services provided by the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) which was created to assist special purpose districts. MRSC services offered to fire districts include:

- ♦ An extensive list of sample documents and updated publications.
- ♦ Guidelines on the Open Public Meetings and Records Act.
- ♦ Guidelines on conflict of interest issues.
- ♦ And much more!

MRSC Legal Director Pat Mason will be on hand to review some of the "hot button" issues facing fire districts and how MRSC can assist in resolving them. The WFCOA appreciates the working relationship with MRSC and will be lobbying intensively to review funding for special districts' access to this service.

Registration fee includes continental breakfast and lunch at all seminars. Please give 48 hours' notice for registration refunds from the WFCOA.

MEMBER REGISTRATION

\$110.00

\$120.00 (at the door)

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

\$210.00

\$220.00 (at the door)

Handout of workshop material, continental breakfast and late registration will begin at 8 a.m.

----- ✂ *Cut along dotted line and return completed registration form to address indicated below.* -----

✓ Sign me up for the Chelan Seminar on May 30 (Legislative Priorities & MRSC)

_____ County FPD No. _____

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

Name & Title (as to appear on name badge)

☐ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

☐ Bill the District

*Please return completed registration form to:
WFCOA, P. O. Box 134, Olympia, WA 98507 or fax to 360.664.0415*

Questions? Call the WFCOA office at 1.800.491.9322

VFIS GOLF TOURNAMENT



Join us this year at beautiful Lake Chelan Golf Course!!
2009 Washington Fire Commissioner's Conference

WHEN: Friday, May 29, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

WHO: Space available for the first 52 players to sign up

COST: \$50.00 each player. Money to be paid by Friday, May 15th

FORMAT: 18 Holes, 4-Person Team Scramble

CARTS: 26 Reserved at \$13.00 per person; Pay at Club House on May 29

PRIZES: Long Drives, Closest to the Pins, First Three Place Finishers & Door Prizes

.....
TO SIGN UP: Please return the following information, along with your check(s) payable to:

VFIS

Attn: Kim Carbaugh – Sales Support

P.O. Box 2726, York, PA 17405

For questions please call Mary Holbrook @ 877-832-7527

WFCA...LAKE CHELAN TOURNEY...VFIS

Name of Players: 1)_____ 2)_____

3)_____ 4)_____

(You do not need a foursome to sign up)

Carts? YES_____NO_____1_____2_____

Team Member Contact _____ Phone # () _____

Organization _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Payable to VFIS

(Do not include cart fee with this entry)

NO WFCA FUNDS WERE USED IN THE PREPARATION AND PRINTING OF THIS FLIER.
THE GOLF TOURNAMENT IS A VFIS-SPONSORED EVENT FOR THEIR CLIENTS
& POTENTIAL CLIENTS

2009 FIRE SERVICE DIRECTORY CHANGES

as of March 31, 2009

CHELAN COUNTY

Fire District 1 New chief replacing Randy Johnson: Mike Burnett, P. O. Box 2106, Wenatchee, WA 98807, (509)662-4734

CLALLAM COUNTY

Fire District 1 New commissioner replacing Richard Halverson: Lowell McQuoid, 502 Steelhead Ave., Forks, WA 98331, (360)374-5427

Fire District 4 New commissioner replacing George Oldfield: Sam Nugent, 202 Cannonball Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363

CLARK COUNTY

Fire District 11 Remove Commissioner Linn "Penny" Dollar, Jr.

COWLITZ COUNTY

Fire District 7 Email address for Commissioner Walter Black: wblack@wildblue.net

GRANT COUNTY

Fire District 11 Remove Commissioner Willis Miller

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Fire District 7 District administrative offices have moved to 2670 SR 109, Ocean City, (360)289-4338, Fax (360)289-4289

Fire District 17 New commissioner replacing Ira T. "Tom" Rogers: Clifford Amsburg, P. O. Box 23, Humptulips, WA 98552

KING COUNTY

Fire District 44 Remove email address for Commissioner Phillip Hamilton
Email address for Commissioner Joanne Seng: jokenseng@comcast.net

Fire District 51 Email address for Commissioner Pat Ellis: PatEllis.Snoqualmiepassfire@live.com

LEWIS COUNTY

Mossyrock Fire Dept. New mayor replacing Jim Wilson: Thomas Mead, (360)983-3300

Fire District 1 Address for Commissioner Sandy Catron: P. O. Box 487, Onalaska, WA 98570

Fire District 3 New commissioner replacing Gary Stamper: Rudolph Pries, Aldrich Rd., Mossyrock, WA 98564, (360)983-3143
New secretary replacing Jodi Stanley: Heidi Anderson, P. O. Box 421, Mossyrock, WA 98564, (360)880-8695

Fire District 5 Email address for Chief Kris Weiland: nestuccachief@wcn.net

Fire District 9 New commissioner replacing Lou Anne Groth: Susan H. Manger, P. O. Box 248, Mineral, WA 98355, (360)492-3090

MASON COUNTY

Fire District 12 Remove email address for Commissioner Dante Elliott

PIERCE COUNTY

Fire District 22 New chief replacing John McDonald: Jerry Thorson, 18421 Old Buckley Hwy., Suite F, Bonney Lake, WA 98391, (253)863-1800

SKAGIT COUNTY

Fire District 5 Address for Secretary Julie Newman: P. O. Box 116, Bow, WA 98232
Address for Samish Island Station Chief Mike Collins: 4968 Roney Rd., Bow, WA 98232

Fire District 6 Address for Commissioner Trevor Ford: 18754 Kim Pl., Burlington, WA 98233
Address for Secretary Julie Newman and Chief Mark Anderson: 16220 Peterson Rd., Burlington, WA 98233

SKAGIT COUNTY (continued)

Fire District 11 New commissioner replacing Robert Daniel Yount: Cherry Dennis, 6974 SR 20, Anacortes, WA 98221

Fire District 14 Email address for Secretary Donna Cole: sfd14@wavecable.com

SKAMANIA COUNTY

Fire District 4 New address for Secretary Jennifer Ochs and Chief Donald Ochs: P. O. Box 249, Washougal, WA 98671

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Fire District 15 Remove Commissioner LeRoy Fryberg, Sr.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Fire District 1 Email address for Commissioner Joe Dawson: joejo9611@comcast.net

STEVENS COUNTY

Fire District 5 Email address for Commissioner Jeni Forman: jforman@dishmail.net

THURSTON COUNTY

Fire District 12 Address for commissioner Everett Evans: 328 160th Trl SE, Tenino, WA 98589-8748

Fire District 17 New secretary replacing Erin Burgman: Helen Heywood-Mang, P. O. Box 783, Yelm, WA 98597-0783, (360)894-2517, admin17@fairpoint.net

WALLA WALLA COUNTY

Fire District 5 Add Department Secretary Kirsten Cole, 460 W. Humorist Rd., Burbank, WA 99323

YAKIMA COUNTY

Fire District 10 New district mailing address: P. O. Box 9442, Yakima, WA 98909
New address for Secretary Gary Peterson: 5905 Cowiche Canyon Rd., Yakima, WA 98908